

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 9, 11, 12, 14-21 and 23-26 are pending in the Application and are now presented for examination. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 16 and 21 are independent.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 11-12, 14, 16-18, 20-21, 23 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0257436 to Koyanagi *et al.* (“Koyanagi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,359,363 to Kuban *et al.* (“Kuban”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection.

Independent Claims 1, 16 and 21

Independent Claim 1 relates to a system for creating signals indicative of a graphical user interface from wide-angle image data corresponding to a monitored area. Claim 1 recites, among other features, a processor configured to “generate, from the buffered wide angle image data, panoramic view data of a panoramic view of the monitored area, generate, from the buffered wide-angle image data, virtual view data ***representing a virtual view of a portion of the panoramic view***, and encode the panoramic view data and the virtual view data for display.” Neither Koyanagi nor Kuban, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest these features.

According to one exemplary embodiment, the system of the claimed invention creates “signals indicative of a graphical user interface from wide-angle image data ... corresponding to a monitored area” (see Specification at paragraph [0007]). In one embodiment, the system requires, among other things, a processor configured to generate, from the buffered wide angle

image data, panoramic view data of a panoramic view of the monitored area and virtual view data representing a virtual view of a portion of the panoramic view. In other words, in the claimed invention, there are two transformations taking place, where each transformation generates data from the same wide angle image data. First, a single captured image is transferred into a panoramic view (“generate, from the buffered wide angle image data, panoramic view data of a panoramic view . . .”). Second, the same captured image is transferred into a virtual view without having to recapture additional image data (“generate, from the buffered wide-angle image data, virtual view data representing a virtual view . . .”), *where the virtual view represents a portion of the panoramic view*. Neither reference discloses or suggests this claimed feature.

By contrast, Koyanagi discloses using a wide-angle lens to generate a panoramic view upon demand when a user presses a panorama generation button (Koyanagi, paragraph [0052]). Data captured from the wide-angle lens is transformed into a stationary panoramic view which is then displayed on a screen (Koyanagi, paragraphs [0042]-[0043] and [0052]). However, the image displayed in the operation area 6A, i.e. the area the Office Action equates to the virtual view of the present invention (see page 4 of Office Action), is *not* generated from wide-angle data. Instead, the image is captured *directly from the pan tilter camera* by mechanically controlling the pan tilter camera (see Koyanagi at paragraphs [0042]-[0043] and Figure 1). The Final Office Action admits that Koyanagi fails to teach that the virtual view data is generated from the buffered wide-angle image data (Final Office Action, Page 3). Thus, Koyanagi fails to disclose a processor configured to “generate, from the buffered wide-angle image data virtual view data representing a virtual view of a portion of the panoramic view”.

Kuban also fails to disclose a system having a processor configured to “generate, from the buffered wide-angle image data virtual view data representing a virtual view of a portion of

the panoramic view”. Kuban relates to a device for omnidirectional image viewing providing pan-and-tilt orientation, rotation, and magnification within a selected field-of-view. An incoming image from any image acquisition source is captured in memory of the device, a transformation is performed for the viewing region of interest and viewing direction, and a corrected image is output as a video image signal for viewing, recording, or analysis.

Specifically, Kuban discloses a means for digitizing an incoming or prerecorded video image signal, transforming a portion of the video image based upon operator or preselected commands, and producing one or more output images that are in correct perspective for human viewing. The incoming image is captured into an electronic memory buffer, and the image, containing a region-of-interest, is transformed into a corrected image by an image processing computer (Kuban, col. 2, lines 51-68). Thus, Kuban merely corrects a stored video image to provide a proper prospective for output (Kuban, col. 4, lines 61-65). Therefore, the *only* transformation taking place in Kuban, is from stored video image data to data representing a corrected version of the stored video image. This does not equate to the claimed “virtual data” as the corrected data does not represent “a portion of the panoramic view.”

Neither of the references discloses a system that generates *two types of data* from the buffered wide angle image data: “panoramic data of a panoramic view of the monitored area”, and “virtual view data representing a virtual view . . .”. Further, neither reference discloses the generation of virtual view data where the virtual view data represents a virtual view “of a portion of the panoramic view.” In Koyanagi, there is no “virtual view” since the view displayed in the operation area 6A is not generated from wide-angle data but is instead captured directly from the pan tilter camera by mechanically controlling the pan tilter camera. This is admitted in the Final Office Action. In Kuban, the image appearing in FIG. 3 is merely a corrected version of the

buffered, wide-angle image appearing in FIG. 2. There is no generated panoramic view in Kuban, and, therefore, there is no generation of “virtual view data representing a virtual view of *a portion of the panoramic view.*”

Independent Claims 16 and 21 contain features virtually identical to those recited in Claim 1. Therefore, the argument above relating to the features of Claim 1 with respect to the cited references, Koyanagi and Kuban, apply to Claims 16 and 21.

In sum, neither Koyanagi nor Kuban teach or suggest, alone or in combination a processor configured to “generate, from the buffered wide angle image data, panoramic view data of a panoramic view of the monitored area” and “generate, from the buffered wide-angle image data virtual view data representing a virtual view of a portion of the panoramic view” as recited in independent Claims 1, 16 and 21. In view of the foregoing differences between Claims 1, 16 and 21 and the applied prior art, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are not obvious over Koyanagi in view of Kuban. Claims 1, 16, and 21 are therefore believed allowable over these references and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2-4, 11-12, 14, 17-18, 20, 23 and 26

Claims 2-4, 11-12, 14, 17-18, 20, 23 and 26 are each dependent either directly or indirectly from one or another of independent Claims 1, 16 or 21 discussed above. These claims recite additional limitations which, in conformity with the features of their corresponding independent claim, are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record. The dependent claims are therefore believed patentable. However, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

On page 8 of the Office Action, Claims 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyanagi in view of Kuban in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2007/0182819 to Monroe.

Dependent Claims 9 and 19

Claims 9 and 19 are each dependent either directly or indirectly from one or another of independent Claims 1 or 16 discussed above. These claims recite additional limitations which, in conformity with the features of their corresponding independent claim, are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record. The dependent claims are therefore believed patentable. However, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

On page 10 of the Office Action, Claims 5, 15, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyanagi in view of Kuban in view U.S. Patent No. 5,563,650 to Poelstra.

Dependent Claims 5, 15, 24 and 25

Claims 5, 15, 24 and 25 are each dependent either directly or indirectly from one or another of independent Claims 1 or 16 discussed above. The inclusion of Poelstra does nothing to cure the deficiencies in Koyanagi and Kuban. Claims 5, 15, 24 and 25 recite additional limitations which, in conformity with the features of their corresponding independent claim, are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record. The dependent claims are therefore believed patentable. However, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all of the above reasons, the claim objections are believed to have been overcome placing Claims 1-5, 9, 11, 12, 14-21 and 23-26 in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Of note, Applicant's undersigned representative is registered to practice before the United States Patent & Trademark Office. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.34 and M.P.E.P. § 405, the signature of Applicant's undersigned representative is representation that he is authorized to represent Applicant and the assignee on whose behalf he is acting.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No: 502104.

Respectfully submitted,

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